

oppose it. I just think it is the right thing to do; and given that fact, there is nothing more that I could say on this matter except let us as quickly as we can pass this bill to the other body and hope they send it to the President for his signature. Let no time go further and lose the opportunity to correct what is a defect in the law and that we have an opportunity to correct.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my friend for his remarks. Let me say that even today, our police officers and firefighters in the District of Columbia, our Secret Service agents put their lives on the line and one never knows what is around the corner in a job like this. It is difficult recruiting and retaining the best and the brightest for these positions; and to some extent, they look at how we treat current retirees when they decide to sign up and for retention or to join the Department in the first place.

In this particular case, a grave mistake was made at the time of the Balanced Budget Act. It had ramifications of basically taking thousands of dollars away from people who over the last generation laid their lives on the line for the safety of the citizens who run our Nation's capital, our law makers and government institutions.

This legislation is, I think, a modest attempt to try to right that wrong, and I hope that current officers and those that are thinking of going into this understand the high regard in which this Congress holds these individuals and honors the service that they gave this city and this government during their tenure. That is what this equity act is all about. That is why it has strong bipartisan support, and that is why I urge our colleagues in the House to support this legislation today.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers at this point, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have no other speakers here at the present time, but I know there are Members who want to put their statements in the RECORD in support of this legislation, especially those who have played such a fundamental role in advancing this cause and bringing it to our attention.

Mr. Speaker, seeing that they will have an opportunity, I am sure, at the appropriate time, I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) for his leadership and again the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who is a cosponsor with me, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), of course our distinguished Delegate from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON). We thank

all of them for helping to put this together as we hopefully pass this today, send this to the other body for what we hope will be fast consideration and a signature on the President's desk.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague and good friend from Virginia, Mr. DAVIS, in supporting H.R. 3054, the DC Military Retirement Equity Act. This measure goes a long way in providing a fair solution to an unjust problem.

When I was notified that hundreds of former military service members and retired Firefighters, Police Officers, Secret Service personnel, and U.S. Park Police were having their annuities forcibly reduced due to no fault of their own, it was clear that this was an injustice in need of swift action.

The solution, H.R. 3054, will allow retired and active duty DC Firefighters and Police Officers as well as U.S. Secret Service and Park Police to buy back any military service time in order for them to maintain their monthly annuity. An oversight in the administration of their retirement plans neglected to account for a federal law prohibiting any post 1956-military service from being credited towards a retiree's benefits once that retiree becomes eligible for Social Security.

In the past few months, many retirees have had their hard earned monthly annuities reduced by up to \$600 per month. Future retirees can expect similar reductions, unless we pass this measure. Unlike options given to federal employees under FERS and CSRS, these members were never told about this provision and never offered an opportunity to buy back their time. H.R. 3054 will allow retirees to maintain their monthly annuities and will allow working men, women and their families to accurately plan for their retirement. These dedicated men and women selflessly served their country in the military and continued in their service by protecting our communities. We have a responsibility to ensure that they receive what they have rightfully earned.

I am pleased that Chairman DAVIS, Chairman WELDON, Ranking Member WAXMAN, Ranking Member DAVIS, Congresswoman NORTON and I have been able to work in a bipartisan manner to develop a positive solution to a potentially crippling injustice. I would urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3054.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back any remaining time I have.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3054, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Police-men and Firemen's Retirement and Disability Act to permit military service previously performed by members and former members of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, the Fire Department of the District of Columbia, the United States Park Police, and the United States Secret Service to count as creditable service for purposes of calcu-

lating retirement annuities payable to such members upon payment of a contribution by such members, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for approximately 10 minutes.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess for approximately 10 minutes.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) at 1 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO ISSUE POSTHUMOUSLY TO THE LATE WILLIAM "BILLY" MITCHELL A COMMISSION AS MAJOR GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2755) to authorize the President to issue posthumously to the late William "Billy" Mitchell a commission as Major General, United States Army.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2755

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. POSTHUMOUS COMMISSION OF WILLIAM MITCHELL IN THE GRADE OF MAJOR GENERAL IN THE ARMY.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The President may issue posthumously a commission as major general, United States Army, in the name of the late William Mitchell, formerly a colonel, United States Army, who resigned his commission on February 1, 1926.

(b) DATE OF COMMISSION.—A commission issued under subsection (a) shall issue as of the date of the death of William Mitchell on February 19, 1936.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF BENEFITS.

No person is entitled to receive any bonus, gratuity, pay, allowance, or other financial benefit by reason of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2755, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?